



## MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 17, 1849.

WILLIAM BUCHMUNSTER, Editor.

### LEGISLATION IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The publishers of the *Ploughman* can see no good reason for continuing the session much longer. Can any tell us the necessity of sitting, annually, more than three months, to make new laws, or to modify old ones? In former years, the numerous petitions for railroads have been the apology for long sessions; but now the business is reduced more to a system, and the new applications are comparatively few.

The petition for the dissolution of the Union did not obtain the two branches a long while—for we learn that the two branches were opposed to receiving it in any mode; men, too, who were lately loud against the rejection of petitions, unread in Congress. The petition of Henry L. Ellsworth, and others, to extend the elective franchise to women, need not take up much time—for females did not favor it; though we cannot yet say where it may fall into.

The petitions to abolish capital punishment in all cases, will lie over till a move is made to abolish punishment for all offences that may arise, and both may be taken up together at the next session.

The mad dog legislation cannot detain the collected wisdom of the Commonwealth a long while, since the members have deplored the several towns to do up all such difficult business for them; and for our part we cannot see why farmers may not be permitted to go home and plant their orchards again.

A correspondent of the *Lynn News* states that Rev Thomas Diver, Pastor of the Baptist Church in Sturbridge, has resigned his charge, with the design of going to California.

Nothing that we can think of need to prevent, unless the legislature should determine, in order to relieve the regular courts and allow the judges time to enjoy the addition to their salaries, should see fit to entertain petitions for divorces from bed and board, or from matrimonial bonds, as the legislatures of some of our States do—probably for want of proper legislative business before March. The business of divorces will not be taken up here this session, for half the members are in the practice of going home every night, and it will be difficult to find a majority disposed to peep into the matter.

Seriously, we advise our farmers in the legislature not to sit too long. Habit is so important, and active habits are so much better for farmers, than sedentary habits, that we cannot withhold our advice to them to yield by the first of next month, though we may lose the subscriptions of a few of them when they retire into the country, on account of the postage.

By-the-by, we do hope the General Court will not again rise till they have made some kind of provision for publishing the laws that they have been maturing. They need not hire every publisher of a paper to put the Acts in print. And yet, if the legislation of the winter and spring is of an important character, it would seem important that the people should have some ready means of knowing how far the laws have been altered, and what new ones are to be their rule of action.

### NINTH AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

The farmers had another meeting in the State House on Tuesday evening, Hon. Mrs. Pitt Willard in the Chair. The subject of conversation was, *Fruit and Fruiting Trees*.

President Wilder reported that we had a very extensive subject. Grain and garden vegetables may be more important to enable us to live, but fruits are quite important also. Within his own recollection fine fruits were confined to the gardens of the wealthy, but now they are enjoyed extensively.

Trees set out by thousands instead of dozens, and our best fruits are beginning to be known in Europe. A gentleman recently from England had told him we need not be afraid of overreaching the market with fruit. He said he saw in the rooms of the London Horticultural Society several hundred kinds of fruit of the apple.

He showed some of ours from America—among them was the *Northern Spy*. They told him they had never seen any such apples.

As to selecting what we should not pay much regard to high sounding names. He here gave a list of such as should recommend to those who wanted but a few kinds. He recommended the Large Early Bough, the Gravenstein, and the Baldwin, in the three best that had been fully proved. He then named a dozen more for those who wanted a larger variety. Among them were the Porter, the Hubbardston Nonpareil, the Williams, the Greening, the Russet, the Danvers Winter Sweet, the Sevier Sweet, the Tolland Sweet—He also named the Northern Spy, and some others that had been recently introduced but had not been long enough tried to warrant unqualified recommendation.

Of Peats, Mr. W. named the Williams Bon Cheri, or Bartlett, the Vicar of Winkfield, that he did not consider first rate, but as having many good characteristics, the Beurre d' Acreberg, and a number of others, as the Dornbirn Seedling, and the Andrews, that have been fully tried. Also the Pratt, the Westford, and the Abbott, from R. Island, that are not so well known. Of Peaches he named the Early York, and Crawford's Early, as early varieties. He recommended the May Duke Cherry, the Black Tartarian and Downer's Lake. Of Plums he recommended the Green Gage, the Jefferson, and the Washington.

Hon. J. C. Gray agreed that the subject was very extensive, and might occupy several evenings. He thought our country would soon be the great fruit market for Europe. Our climate differs much from that of England and we can raise better fruits than the English grain, but in rich fruits we excel them.

They are obliged to raise walls and resort to artificial means to raise heat for the better kinds of fruit. He quoted an old French writer who advised to let trees have their natural course and not trim much.

Mr. G. thought we were in the practice of trimming too much here. The tree strikes so direct to the roots that it is impossible to be eradicated.

Mr. Bardwell, of Whately, remarked that many seedlings raised in beds for nurseries are worthless and ought not to be set. He thought two thirds of them should be thrown away.

They are too much exposed to the sun, and kept them around the tree for some time, and it bore fruit—but it was loaded with plants. He tried the same plan the next year, but the tree died. He supposes the roots might have made the land too rich.

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Mr. Bardwell made some very good remarks on the seedlings that are set in nursery rows, but his directions for staking young trees are altogether superfluous.

We would not allow any stakes to be set if a nursery man would set them gratis.

The young tree should be supported by straw or litter placed around it, and stones may be placed on the litter when it is very light.—Ed.]

The bill to incorporate the Trustees of the Smith charity was reported back with an expression of opinion that it ought to pass with an amendment.

A resolve was reported to pay \$50 annually for the benefit of the Hassamann Indian.

The bill establishing additional terms of the Court of Common Pleas in Essex, was ordered to stand.

The orders of the day were taken up, and after a long debate the report granting leave to withdraw to the prisoners for a repeal or modification.

**FIRE IN WATERTOWN.** On Saturday afternoon, the house occupied by Mr. R. Maplesden was destroyed by fire; it caught from the chimney on the roof. Furniture partly saved—no insurance.

trees died. He urged the importance of keeping the whole ground well tilled for the roots soon extend so far that digging immediately about the trees does not answer any good purpose. He objected to placing any manure in contact with the roots when trees are first set. He thought peach trees needed, trimming; keep down the branches if not the whole top. Caterpillars he found very troublesome, but he could destroy them by close attention. Cater worms have done much mischief but they may be all destroyed by taking the proper measures.

**FAST DAY.** Thursday the 12th day of April, has been appointed by the Executive of this Commonwealth as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer.

**LET** The weather on Monday was mild and fine, being the first spring day of the season. The frost is deep where there was no snow, but a few rainy days will draw it all out. "A good time is coming," boys, now the war is over.

**LET** Mr. McGaughy, of Indians, who was one of the 14 Members of Congress that refused to vote supplies to carry on the war with Mexico, has been appointed Governor of Minnesota by the war-worn Gen. Taylor.

**LET** It will be seen in our price current list that hay has fallen a little. People may think the winter is past, and they may be disappointed.

**CALIFORNIA ITEMS.** The ship *Regulus*, with the Bunker Hill Company, from this port, on Mar. 5, San Francisco, was spoken 6th inst., lat. 40, on 68.

The *Corpus Christi Gazette*, of 24th ult., gives information in relation to the company of Col. C. H. McRae.

"Last evening, Col. Shively and Lieut. Good arrived here, and report that Gen. Jeff. C. Abbott's party at the Laredo crossing, some miles this side of the Presidio, Col. Everett was to guide the party from the crossing up, he being perfectly well acquainted with the country, and before this, we have no doubt, they have all safely arrived at the Presidio. Mr. Peoples, Mr. Ross, and in fact the whole crowd, were more troubled with another kind, a fall caterpillar; this was not so easily killed as the kind that comes in the spring.

Mr. R. had found hawks very destructive; some of his old trees had been reduced to a honeycomb. He had dug out 21 birds from a single tree; he had used a chisel or a wire.

Mr. R. inquired why apples are so wormy? He had tried the plan of picking up all the small apples under the trees and giving them to the hogs in order to get rid of the worms; he hoped to succeed in clearing his orchard in this way. As to trimming he would not take young trees at this season, though old ones may be injured. He would trim young ones when the bark will soon close over.—Apples may be kept in sand one year and a half, but he agreed that the flavor may be injured by keeping them so. He recommended keeping the whole area of an orchard in tillage, for no fibrous roots are found very near the body of the tree.—He thought it took as long to rear a tree from the seed as to rear a boy.

**HON. MR. BROOKS**, of Princeton, said he had some doubts about the increasing of the moisture of the soil by subsoiling as advised by Mr. Gray. And as to the roots of trees in the woods running near the surface he did not find it to be the case in the grounds that he had cleared; he found that many of the roots run deep. As to trimming peach trees he finds when he heads them in they come out again very soon and thicker than at first. Caterpillars he is not afraid of when he goes around his trees twice in a season. He had transplanted old trees without difficulty by filling the holes with which he set them with mud, he sets in the fall of the year.

**HON. MR. CALHOUN** said he hoped a permanent government would be given to the remarks that are made at these meetings, and he had understood that this is to be done. He had not much experience in the cultivation of fruit; but it is likely to be more profitable than any farm product. It has been common to leave trees to their fate. Why should we do less for these than for grain fields? It agreed with Mr. Gray that the ground should be kept cultivated. When he sets a tree he makes a large hole and puts in compost master—one part of lime. Trees should be watched and the ground stirred often. Watch the insects and keep the tree clean; there is no difficulty in it. There is great pleasure taken in good health and spirits. They had gone some distance out of the town before he got to the Presidio. Col. Shively overtook them, but not met with any obstacles of either boy or tree.

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**HON. MR. CALHOUN** said he hoped a permanent government would be given to the remarks that are made at



## THE POET'S CORNER.

### OUR HOMESTEAD.

BY MISS PHINEE CAREY.

Our old brown homestead reared its walls  
From the wayside dust arose,  
Where the apple boughs could almost cast  
Their fruitage on its roof,  
And the cherry trees so near it grew.  
That, when awake I've lain  
In the lone-some night, I've heard the limbs  
As they cracked against the pane;  
And those orchard trees—O those orchard trees!  
I've seen my little brothers rocked  
In their laps by the summer breeze,  
The sweet bairn under the window sills,  
Which the early birds made glad,  
And the damask rose by the garden fence,  
Were all the flowers we had.  
I've looked at many a flower since then,  
Exotics rich and rare,  
That in other eyes were lovely,  
But not to me, for fate—  
For those roses bright—those roses bright—  
I've twined them with my sister's locks,  
That are laid in the dust from eight.

We had a dell—a dell, old—  
Where the spring was never dry,  
And the cool drops down from the mossy stones  
Fall steadily;  
And there never was water half so sweet  
As that in my little cup,  
Drawn from the curb by the rude old sweep  
Which my father's hand set up;  
And that deep dell—O that deep dell!—  
I remember yet the plashing sound  
Of the bucket as it fell.

Our homestead had an ample hearth,  
Where at night we loved to meet;  
Where my mother's voice was always kind,  
And her smile was always sweet;  
And there're not on my father's knees,  
And watched his thoughtful frown,  
With my brother's hand in his raven hair—  
That hair is silver now!

But that broad heart's light—O that broad heart's  
light!  
And my father's look, and my mother's smile,  
They are in my heart to night.

### LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

#### Unequal Marriages.

BY CAROLINE H. BUTLER.

"Sister, are you determined, then, to marry Annette to Mr. Eccles?" asked Mr. Goodman of Mrs. Dolly.

"Certainly I am, brother," answered the lady, "in every way it is a most advantageous match for her; indeed, I assure you that I look upon an alliance with the Eccles family as one of the most desirable things which could possibly happen, and so does Mr. Dolly."

"I do not agree with you," said her brother; "and I fear, in the end, you may have reason to change your present views."

"And why not, brother?" returned Mrs. Dolly.

"It seems to me you are always looking upon the dark side. Now do tell me, John, what reasonable objection can you possibly have to Annette's marriage—I am sure I see none—and, of course, no one can have happiness more at heart than her own mother!"

"It is not very rich, and nearly allied to some of the very first families in the city!" His age, surely, can be no serious objection—indeed, it is all for the best, for a man stands still while women grow old; and fifteen years depend upon it."

"Then, he is very agreeable, and, certainly, uncommonly good looking!" and with the air of one who feels satisfied that they have the best of the argument, Mrs. Dolly complacently swung to and fro in her easy rocking-chair.

"Yes, Jane, he is all these—and, you may add, too, as proud as Lucifer!" said Mr. Goodman.

"He has reason to be proud!" put in Mrs. Dolly.

"Perhaps he has," answered her brother, "but I will find that his pride will not allow him to acknowledge, willingly, any connection with a dry-goods retailer!"

"Ridiculous, brother—how foolish you talk!"

Pray, then, why should he offer to marry Annette, if he looks upon the connection as something to be ashamed of?" said Mrs. Dolly, getting almost angry.

"Why? why because he has fallen in love with Annette's poor mother, and to marry her, he must, in his eyes, and he trusts to his future power over her, and to a woman's devotedness to her husband, right or wrong, to wear her away from all her earlier ties?"

"John, you really talk very strangely!" exclaimed Mrs. Dolly, almost ready to cry—"What possesses you to run on in this way, just as if my dear Annette could ever be brought to give up all her old friends for strangers. I do wish you would not say so—it really makes me nervous."

"Well, well, my dear sister, I am mistaken, and for your sake, and for Annette's sake, I hope to God I am! I call myself a pretty good judge of character, and, if I err not, Mr. Eccles has no much pride—arrogance, perhaps, would be the better word, for it is not the pride of a high-minded, honorable man—as will make his countenance what he reads, or what sacred sitas he may tamely drop, to serve his own ambitious views. Besides, I assure you know all true happiness comes from mutual manners, and I tell you honestly, that were Annette my daughter, I would sooner see her the wife of an honest young tradesman, who has his own fortune and standing to build upon, than the wife of Penn Eccles, were he ten times richer than he is!"

"Oh, yes, John, were Annette your daughter?" said Mrs. Dolly, forcing a laugh. "Yes, I know, old bachelors and old maids are always most wonderful patterns of parental prudence! but with all your prejudices you will be brought to think I am a fool."

"Indeed, Mr. Eccles is far from being either a fool or a simpleton."

Eccles preferred to be married in church, and a gay young friend the bridal pair to have been registered, and the young couple were to be registered.

Annette's mother, I would sooner see her the wife of a poor young tradesman, who has his own fortune and standing to build upon,

than the wife of Penn Eccles, were he ten times richer than he is!"

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"Indeed, Mr. Eccles is far from being either a fool or a simpleton."

The ceremony over, the two sisters of Eccles, son, proud, haughty dames, advanced and coldly saluted the pale cheek of the fair bride, and the young Annette, who had been born to be the ornament of the church, all eyes turned admiringly upon her—so charming, yet so unassuming of her loveliness, as with her little hand nestled in her she received the holy benediction of the priest, while as he bent his lips to her pure brow, a softness rested upon the features of the bridegroom, which rendered his beauty almost godlike.

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